

I. REMARKS

Applicants submit this Response in a bona fide attempt to (i) advance the prosecution of this case, (ii) answer each and every ground of objection and rejection as set forth by the Examiner, (iii) place the claims in a condition for allowance, and (iv) place the case in better condition for consideration on appeal. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the above referenced patent application in view of this Response.

A. Priority

The Examiner has indicated that the above referenced application has not been deemed a national phase application of International Application No. PCT/AU02/01306, "because there is no Notice of Acceptance of Application under 35 U.S.C 371 and 37 C.F.R. 1.495 of record." Applicant has accordingly filed a Petition under 37 C.F.R. 1.78 to have the above referenced application designated a continuation of International Application No. PCT/AU02/01306. Copies of the petition and a substitute Declaration reflecting the relationship of the application to the PCT application are enclosed herewith.

B. Claim Rejection

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by International Application No. PCT/AU02/01306, which published as AU Application Patent Publication No. PR777101D on October 11, 2001.

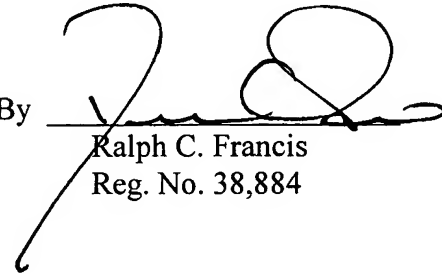
As indicated above, Applicants have requested that the present application be deemed a continuation of the international reference. Thus, upon Applicants petition being granted, it is respectfully requested that the section 102 rejection be withdrawn.

II. CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact their Attorneys of record at the telephone number below to expedite prosecution of the application.

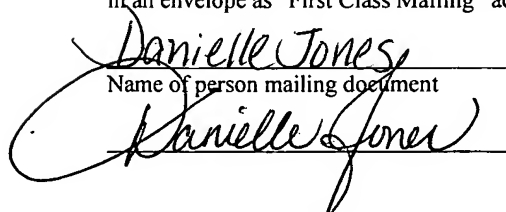
Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date 4-13-06
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